Very Interesting People

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By Maxine Cheshire

The Case of Salinger's Vanishing Magazine Article

THERE IS disappointing news for former New Frontiersmen who don't like author William Manchester. Many onetime White House staff members who fared badly in his controversial "The Death of a President" have been eagerly awaiting publication of a magazine article that was calculated to displease *him*.

Mrs. Cheshire

Pierre Salinger, presidential press secretary for both JFK and LBJ, wrote the piece. His agent in New York had already sent it out to editors for bids. Now it has been withdrawn from the market.

Salinger has decided not to prolong the clamor which the Kennedys would all like to see quieted as soon as possible.

Salinger has in his possession some very revealing correspondence with Manchester on the subject of censorship. These letters came out of Salinger's private White House files. Salinger's negotiations with Manchester date back to 1961, when the author was seeking authorization and assistance in preparation of his earlier Kennedy book: "Portrait of a President."

One memo which would now make Manchester uncomfortable to see in print was an unsolicited pledge from him five years ago outlining an elaborate system of clearance, which the White House could impose upon him in exchange for cooperation.

As further evidence of Manchester's willingness to submit to self-censorship, Salinger had also intended to reprint his own copy of a letter the author wrote to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in 1964.

Referring to the earlier memorandum, Manchester told RFK: ". . . I believe we are in absolute accord there. I agree that it is imperative that Mrs. Kennedy and you should review the manuscript. If you had not suggested this, I would have."